Remarks

Claims 1-42 have been canceled. Claims 43-56 have been added.

New claim 43 is directed to an animal cell that can be infected with influenza viruses and is adapted to grow in suspension in serum-free medium. New claim 43 is supported by the specification which discloses, "The present invention relates to animal cells which can be infected by influenza viruses and are adapted to growth in suspension in serum-free medium." Page 1, paragraph 2, lines 1-2.

New claim 44 recites that the animal cell is a vertebrate cell. New claim 46 recites that the vertebrate cell is an avian cell. New claim 51 recites that the avian cell is a hens' embryo cell. New claims 44, 46, and 51 are supported by the specification which discloses, "The cells according to the invention are preferably vertebrate cells, e.g., avian cells, in particular hens' embryo cells." Page 5, paragraph 9, lines 1-2.

New claim 45 recites that the vertebrate cell is a mammalian cell. New claims 47-50 recite that the mammalian cell is a hamster, a cow, a monkey, or a dog cell, respectively. New claims 52-55 recite that the hamster, cow, monkey or dog cell is isolated from kidney. New claims 45, 47-50, and 52-55 are supported by the specification which discloses, "In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cells according to the invention are mammalian cells, e.g., from hamsters, cattle, monkeys or dogs, in particular kidney cells or cell lines derived from these." Page 5, paragraph 9, lines 2-4.

New claims 56 and 57 recite that the hamster cell is a BHK21-F cell or a HKCC cell, respectively. New claim 58 recites that the cow cell is a MDBK cell. New claims 56-58 are supported by the specification which discloses, "It is known that influenza viruses can be

replicated cell cultures. Besides hens' embryo cells and hamster cells (BHK21-F and HKCC), MDBK cells, and in particular MDCK cells have been described as suitable cells for the in-vitro replication of influenza viruses." Page 3, paragraph 6, lines 1-3, citation omitted.

Claim 59 recites that the animal cells are produced according to a process of passaging cells in roller bottles, obtaining the passaged cells growing in suspension, and selecting the cells adapted to grow in serum-free medium. New claim 59 is supported by the specification which discloses that "selection was carried out by proliferation of the cells in roller bottles which were rotated at 16 rpm (instead of about 3 rpm as is customary for roller bottles having adherently growing cells.) After several passages of the cells present suspended in the medium, cell strains growing in suspension were obtained." Page 11, paragraph 31, lines 4-7. New claim 59 is also supported by the specification which discloses, "The selection of cells which are adapted to growth in serum-free medium can also be carried out by method known to the person skilled in the art." Page 12, paragraph 32, lines 11-14.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Their entry is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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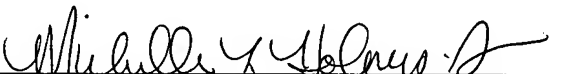
By: 
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